

**WHAT WE DO:**

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Government’s program of recovery and reconstruction works within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice administration of public reconstruction and resilience funds. QRA is also the state’s lead agency responsible for disaster recovery and resilience policy, working collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

**OUR VISION:**

Stronger, safer, resilient Queensland communities.

**OUR PURPOSE:**

Coordinate action to improve the resilience of Queensland communities and facilitate locally led disaster recovery.

**DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**In the March quarter**

The first three months of 2022 has seen Queensland face an onslaught from Mother Nature, with almost the entire state impacted by flooding including the extreme weather that wreaked havoc across South East Queensland in just a few short days in February. By quarter end, 55 of the State’s 77 local government areas have been impacted by six natural disasters in the 2022 season with a recovery cost projected to be in excess of \$2.6 billion.

Following the floods, QRA has been on the ground supporting councils and communities as well as the State Recovery Coordinator, Major-General Jake Elwood, who started the long process towards recovery. This support has included the activation of disaster assistance, coordination of recovery efforts by state agencies and early assistance with the development of state and local recovery plans.



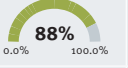
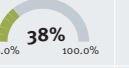






As the significance of the impact from the South East Queensland Rainfall and flooding event became clear, QRA worked with the state and Commonwealth to secure the state’s largest-ever extraordinary disaster assistance package to ensure flood-affected communities get the support they need to recover. A key focus of these packages has been to build resilience into the recovery initiatives, in order to assist Queensland communities to be better placed to deal with future natural disasters.

Inclusive of a more than \$1.8 billion program of works already in delivery to support the ongoing recovery from the 16 disaster events that impacted the state in 2020 and 2021, QRA is now administering and supporting a total disaster recovery program worth close to \$4.5 billion across the state. QRA has been undertaking internal planning and working with its delivery partners to ensure it is well-placed to deliver on the extraordinary scale and complexity of the recovery task at hand.

During the quarter, QRA also continued to deliver on its core functions, including finalising the audit and lodgement of the State’s annual DRFA claim to the Commonwealth on 31 March 2022. This is an important annual milestone and, once accepted by the Commonwealth, will secure approximately \$580 million revenue to the State.

During the quarter, QRA also took other steps towards improving the state’s resilience to natural disasters, and progressed the assessment of applications for a number of resilience funding programs, following closures of the North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program (NQNDMP), the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF) and the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (NFMIP) 2021–22.

**Status of Active Grants Programs administered by QRA**

	Prior Events in delivery	2020 Events	2021 Events	2022 Events
NUMBER OF EVENTS	-	5	11	6
\$4,450M Delivery Program	\$235M Program	\$900M Program	\$655M Program	\$2,660 Program
Deadline for Delivery	Complete	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2024
 Time Elapsed	Remainder being delivered under EOT's	 88%	 38%	 -
 % Completion	 98% complete	 62% complete	 16% complete	 - complete

**Disaster Assistance and Resilience Grants Program**

Since establishment, QRA has administered a recovery and reconstruction program through the joint State Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth almost \$20 billion. Works for 22 events from the 2020, 2021 and 2022 disaster seasons are currently in delivery with an estimated value approaching \$4.5 billion.

In addition to DRFA, QRA is currently administering 18 other State, Commonwealth and joint-funded grant programs with a capped value of \$170.5 million, focused on disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

\*% complete represents delivery progress reported by delivery agents. This may reflect greater progress than inferred by spend due to program efficiencies.

**Resilience and Recovery**

The Resilience and Recovery team within QRA provides leadership, coordination, direction and advice for the development and implementation of disaster resilience and recovery planning, policy, funding, and support.

To deliver on this commitment, roles and responsibilities are dispersed between and across levels of government and with key stakeholders.

QRA is pleased to outline some of the key activities and progress that has occurred during this quarter.

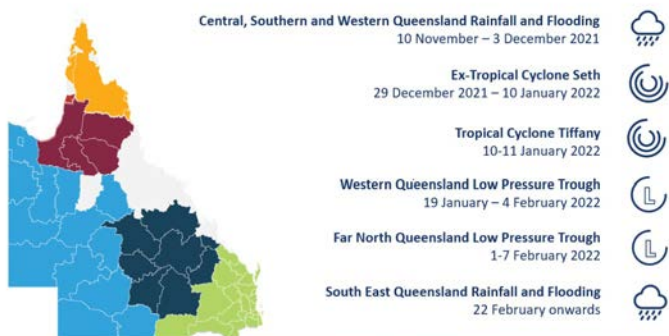
**RECOVERY**

QRA works extensively on recovery planning with communities impacted by major disaster events, increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support for local recovery governance.

Across the state it is evident Councils are recovering from cumulative and compounding events, along with many who are already dealing with other longer-term stresses like drought and COVID-19. The Queensland Recovery Plan is driving a collaborative approach across functions of recovery, all levels of government and the whole community to ensure recovery operations are appropriate to the scale of the disaster event.

**2021–22 Disaster season activations**

In 2021-22, Queensland has been activated for six disaster events under the joint Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



A number of councils were activated numerous times, with Bundaberg, Cherbourg, Gympie, North Burnett and South Burnett Regional Councils activated three times this disaster season.

	<b>2021–22 (to date)</b>	<b>This quarter</b>
<b>Events</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>LGAs activated</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>LGAs activated multiple events</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>

**South East Queensland Rainfall and flooding – event impact summary**

From 22 February – 7 March 2022, South East Queensland experienced unprecedented rainfall and subsequent flooding as a result of a slow-moving low-pressure system, embedded within a surface trough. In Gympie, the Mary River peaked at almost 23 metres, breaking records that had stood for a century and causing major flooding in the region.

The waters rose around Noosa and the Sunshine Coast, Ipswich, the Lockyer Valley, Maryborough, Toowoomba and throughout the city and suburbs of Brisbane, Logan, Moreton Bay and the Gold Coast.

In six days, 793 millimetres of rain fell in Brisbane, which is 137 millimetres more than in 1974 - the highest six-day figure ever recorded. Fifty-six locations received more than 1,000 millimetres. Mount Glorious received 1.8 metres of rain. Wivenhoe Dam performed as designed, holding back an amount of water equivalent to four Sydney harbours.

At the peak of the weather event, more than 50,000 homes and businesses were without power, 980 schools were closed and when the water receded, close to 8000 homes and businesses had some form of impact, with over 4,300 deemed moderately or severely damaged or totally destroyed. Tragically, many lives were lost over the duration of the floods.

**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**BROOWEENA–WOOLOOGA ROAD SUFFERS REPEAT DAMAGE**

Wide Bay Burnett suffered significant damage to the state-controlled road network as a result of downpours from Ex-Tropical Cyclone (Ex-TC) Seth in early January 2022 and extreme rainfall in Queensland’s southeast in late February 2022, with many roads impacted by both events.

This includes Brooweena–Woolooga Road, a 54km connection between Maryborough–Biggenden Road to the north and Bauple–Woolooga Road to the south.

During the January 2022 event, Brooweena–Woolooga Road was damaged at multiple locations, including Running and Spring creeks. A temporary crossing at Running Creek, about 50km northwest of Gympie, was reinstated in 17 days so communities were able to access Gympie.

About 25km north of Running Creek is Spring Creek Bridge. This bridge was also impacted by ex-TC Seth in January 2022 and was closed for the same period as Running Creek. The timber bridge, constructed in 1930, was closed again on 25 February 2022 following the second disaster event.

TMR is undertaking damage assessments as water recedes and roads become accessible. It is expected this will take some time due to the widespread nature of the event.

Eligible reconstruction works will be jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



*Image: Brooweena–Woolooga Road – repaired Running Creek temporary crossing in February 2022.*

The temporary crossing had been in place after a car fire on the nearby embankment led to the 85-year-old timber bridge burning down in 2019. TMR constructed the temporary crossing while funding avenues are being investigated to replace the bridge.

A subsequent deluge in February 2022 resulted in damage to the newly repaired crossing and the road was closed again on 25 February 2022. Brooweena–Woolooga Road remains closed until repairs can be undertaken to restore the crossing.



*Image: Brooweena–Woolooga Road – damage at Running Creek caused by the SEQ Heavy Rainfall and Flooding event (February 2022).*



*Image: Brooweena–Woolooga Road – damage at Spring Creek following ex-TC Seth (January 2022).*



*Image: Brooweena–Woolooga Road – damage at Running Creek following ex-TC Seth (January 2022).*

**State Recovery Coordinators**

In response to two significant events impacting the state, in January and March this year, the Queensland Premier and Minister for the Olympics appointed State Recovery Coordinators (SRC) Mr Paul de Jersey, AC, CVO, QC to support recovery for Ex- Tropical Cyclone Seth and Major-General Jake Ellwood DSC, AM, CSC to support recovery for South East Queensland Rainfall and flooding.

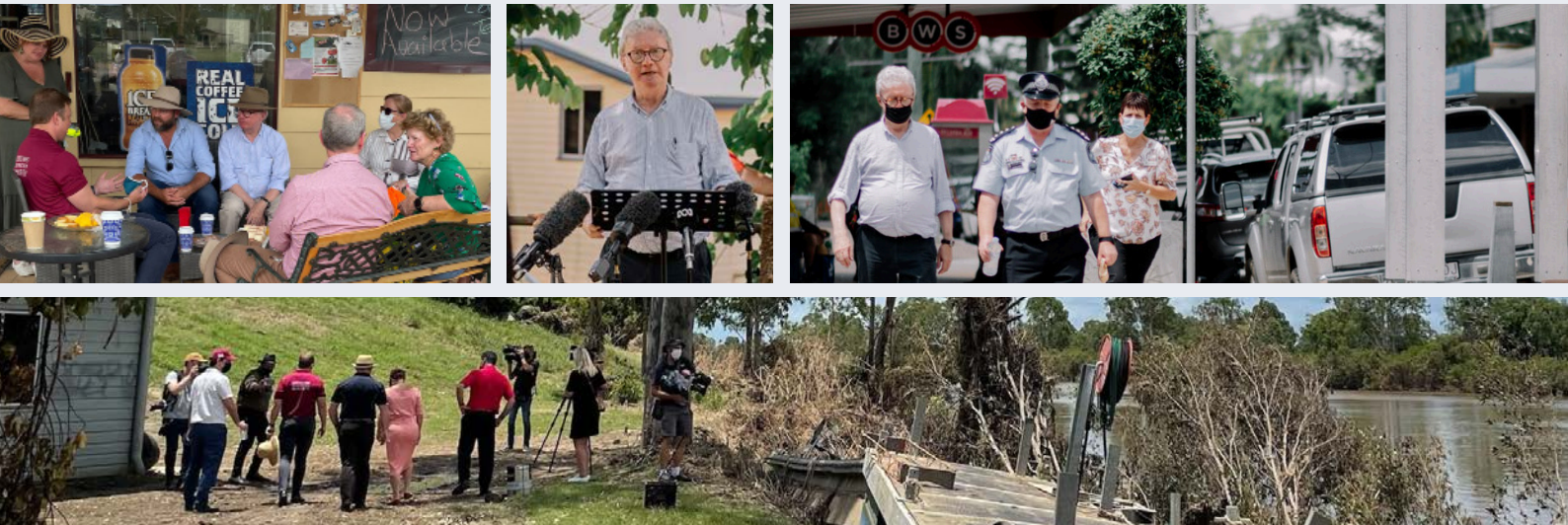
The SRC works closely with disaster affected communities to understand their recovery needs and ensure that recovery delivery and progress is understood as well as ensuring these communities are prepared for the next severe weather event.

**Mr Paul de Jersey, AC, CVO, QC**

During his appointment, Mr de Jersey coordinated locally led recovery planning and recovery operations, in consultation with local governments, state agencies and the Commonwealth to help identify suitable grant programs and to advise on applications for funding to support recovery and resilience.

Communities impacted by flooding from ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth are still recovering and QRA is continuing to work closely with relevant state agencies to provide support and assistance needed. The drone vision photo captures the widespread impact of flooding in the Maryborough area.

QRA is pleased to report in February 2022 Goondiwindi Regional Council’s Flood & Rain Event Local Recovery Plan was endorsed by Council.



**Major-General Jake Ellwood DSC, AM, CSC**

The State Recovery Coordinator Major-General Jake Ellwood has met and continues to meet with impacted communities, primary producers and business owners to assess the impacts of recent flooding, the region’s recovery progress and the community’s preparedness for future disasters. The SRC is reporting directly to the Premier on the status of recovery and identifying any issues that need resolving.

To date, 23 local government areas have been activated for assistance under the State-Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding. QRA is currently working with the Commonwealth to assess damage from the most recent rainfall flooding (27 to 30 March) to determine recovery support required under the DRFA.



Recovery in Action – South East Queensland Rainfall and flooding

Following the South East Queensland Rainfall and flooding event, QRA worked with Queensland’s lines of recovery partners to quickly gather intel for recovery planning and priorities in disaster impacted areas. An early impact assessment of the SEQ event compounded with earlier disaster events highlighted the significant recovery effort required.



In the early stages of recovery to understand damage level impacts as a result of SEQ Floods to houses and commercial buildings QRA supported QFES with Rapid Damage Assessments.

# Flood damage by numbers

Initial QRA Damage and Reconstruction Monitoring (DARM) data from South East Queensland rainfall and flooding 22 February - 7 March 2022

**16,500+**  
assessments undertaken on homes and commercial buildings:

Nearly **50%** some level of impact

**1,800** severe levels of damage

**>2,500** moderate levels of damage

Nearly **3,500** minor levels of damage

As the significance of the impact from the South East Queensland Rainfall and flooding event became clear and to ensure flood-affected communities in Queensland get the financial support they need to recover and reduce the impacts of future flood events, QRA sought a range of assistance through jointly funded State and Commonwealth DRFA.

To date, **more than \$20.3 million in DRFA personal hardship** payments have been paid to support 95,450 flood affected Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government also secured a **\$558.5 million funding package, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments** under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), to provide support to communities in need.

This means there are **grants of up to \$75,000 for primary producers, up to \$50,000 for affected small businesses and not-for-profit organisations, and \$20,000 for sporting and community clubs** and associations available through the DRFA to help flood-affected communities get back on their feet.

To date, more than 1,500 small businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations have been supported through more than **\$22 million in emergency hardship grants**.

An additional **\$771 million package, jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments**, has now also been approved to help disaster-affected Queenslanders clean-up and improve household resilience following the extreme flooding seen this 2021–22 disaster season.

This package includes:

- **A \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund** that will help bolster the resilience of homes affected by flooding this disaster season, through retrofitting, house raising or the voluntary buy-back of homes at high risk of loss of life from future floods.
- **\$30 million Clean-Up Package** that will support councils and state agencies with the clean-up of flood-related debris from recreational assets such as beaches, waterways and parks, and from commercial properties and households that is not directly related to safe access to the residence, such as sheds and backyards.

The Queensland Government has also developed a proposal for a further **DRFA Category C and D \$621 million** joint funded package, as well as **\$150 million for concessional loans** for impacted medium and large businesses. This package includes initiatives that will assist recovery across the five recovery domains; human and social, economic, environment, building and roads and transport.

Up to **\$900** per family or  
up to **\$180** per individual

**70,000+** flood-affected Queenslanders  
already assisted through  
**\$13 MILLION+**  
in personal hardship grants

**Applications closing soon**

**PHAS**

If you need assistance call the  
**Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349**

Australian Government Queensland Government

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

**\$741 million**  
to improve resilience of  
**flood-affected homes**

Australian Government Queensland Government

The Queensland Government also secured and increase in **DRFA Category A Structural Assistance Grants from a maximum of \$14,684 to up to \$50,000** to assist eligible Queensland home owners with significant structural damage to their homes if they're uninsured or unable to access insurance.

The package has been submitted to the Commonwealth and is awaiting a response.

In addition, nineteen affected councils each received a **\$1 million injection to assist with urgent recovery and clean-up works.**

This will be followed by reimbursements to councils and agencies across all affected areas for costs incurred in counter disaster operations, such as sandbagging, and the restoration of essential public assets including roads and bridges.

Whenever, and wherever a disaster strikes in Queensland, QRA is there to support recovery and ensure our communities build back better, stronger and with resilience.

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

**\$75,000** Primary producers

**\$50,000** Small businesses

**\$50,000** Not-for-profit organisations

**\$20,000** Sporting and community clubs

Australian Government Queensland Government

Refer to QRA's website for full information on eligibility per initiative.

Caveat some packages are under consideration by Australian and/or Commonwealth governments.

**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**FLOOD ASSISTANCE FLOWS FOR DISASTER-AFFECTED QUEENSLANDERS**

South East Queensland has once again experienced destructive rainfall and widespread subsequent flooding throughout February, March, and now into April 2022.

In Gympie, the Mary River peaked at almost 23 metres, breaking records that had stood for a century and causing major flooding in the region.

In the Southern Downs, four floods in as many months have taken a toll on the region’s road network as well as hard working primary producers who have lost stock, fences, top spoil and plantings in successive floods.

Once again, Queenslanders are faced with a monumental recovery task, as the mop up from this latest flood emergency continues.

Thousands of families, small business and primary producers have seen their homes and livelihoods suffer inundation and disruption at a time when recovery from other factors such as COVID-19 is ongoing.

Early-stage indications suggest that the recovery cost of these floods could be in the region of \$3 billion, with private insurance claims already reaching more than \$1 billion.

As part of the Queensland Government’s initial response to the floods, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority secured a \$558.5 million funding package under the DRFA, to provide support to key impacted sectors including small businesses, primary producers, and not-for-profits.

By the end of March 2022, more than \$15.5 million had been paid in personal hardship assistance payments benefiting more than 83,500 people.

In addition, Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Grants of up to \$75,000 for primary producers, up to \$50,000 for affected small businesses and not-for-profit organisations, and \$20,000 for sporting and community clubs are also available through the DRFA to help flood-affected communities get back on their feet.

As at 31 March, 523 grants have been approved totalling more than \$7.19 million, including 60 grants for primary producers in the hardest hit regions of Gympie, Lockyer Valley, Somerset and the Sunshine Coast.

One of the small business owners to access the extraordinary assistance grants is Joe, who runs Science of Fitness in West End, Brisbane.

His gym was directly affected by the floods in March with knee height water going through the building causing damage to equipment, flooring and the walls.

Joe applied for an Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant to help him and his team of 12 get back on their feet.

**“The grant process was a life-saver to be honest,”** Joe said.

**“The application came out Saturday afternoon. I jumped on and spent 30-40 minutes getting all of my details ready to go and submitting them. We got notification Sunday afternoon (that the grant was approved).**

**“Basically within 24 hours we had it all done and dusted.**

**“The \$15,000 was just a really, really important cash flow boost to help with the relevant trades, the relevant cleaning equipment, fixing up the immediate losses that we had.”**



Image: Science of Fitness owner and DRFA grant recipient Joe Agresta.



Image: Floods inundate the Science of Fitness gym, West End, Brisbane, March 2022.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### FLOOD ASSISTANCE FLOWS FOR DISASTER-AFFECTED QUEENSLANDERS (CON'T)

For primary producers, the DRFA grants have been just as beneficial.

The flood waters may have receded at Matt's property in Amamoor, near Gympie, but the destruction left behind is a testament to the recovery that lies ahead for the ginger and beef producer.

With the help of an Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant, Matt has been able to move forward and start getting his family farming business back up and running.

***"We were still recovering from the previous flood earlier this year that we experienced as a result of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth, so it was devastating to go through it all again just months later,"*** Matt said.

Matt has been able to use the initial \$15,000 of the grant to employ fencing contractors and hire help to reinstall irrigation that was washed away in the floods.

***"The next 12 months to two years are going to be important for us in recovering our business so financial assistance like the Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant is a big help and we are so grateful for this joint State and Commonwealth support,"*** Matt said.

These floods come on top of an already intense summer disaster season with five previous natural disaster events already flooding much of Queensland since November last year.

This has once again seen Queensland earn our unenviable reputation as the most disaster-affected state in the nation.

QRA has swiftly activated the DRFA for each of these events to ensure all disaster-affected communities receive the recovery support they need.



Image: The Parker Family look to the future thanks to a DRFA primary producer grant.



Image: Flooded ginger fields at Amamoor near Gympie, March 2020.





Image: Flooded homes in Maryborough.



Image: Flooded homes in Gympie.



Image: Aftermath of flooded homes in Ipswich

### The Resilient Homes Fund

Aims to get people back in to their homes by increasing resilience for households. This package presents the opportunity to truly change the face of flood-resilience in South East Queensland, such as the potential to reduce insurance premiums, as illustrated in the **Case study: Flood resilient home – Graceville, Brisbane.**

In addition to the damage to people’s homes, the South East Queensland Flooding deposited significant volumes of debris and waste across impacted areas. As part of the recovery effort, clean-up of flood related debris is essential for public safety, community recovery, environmental health and environmental protection. With this in mind, QRA secured a clean-up package to support removal of commercial, building and housing debris, pontoons, concrete, polystyrene, chemical waste, animal carcasses and green waste.



#### Case study: Flood resilient home – Graceville, Brisbane

**2011 flood** Flooded 5m above ground level – home destroyed and rebuilt

**2022 flood** minimal disruption

**flood resilient design**

**Suncorp insurance premium savings of 40%**

*"In 2011, our home and lives were virtually destroyed. This time around, nothing has been destroyed, we've had minimal discomfort and, pending reconnection of power and water, we should be back at home in just two weeks. We've experienced nowhere near the upheaval of 2011."*

Credit: James Davidson Architect and Suncorp <https://youtu.be/Onw11Znrl8>



Images: Kedron Brook following SEQ Flooding.

The full extent of the damage from this event is yet to be realised and it is important to remember that other communities in southern and western Queensland have also experienced disastrous flooding and damage to homes in December 2021 and January 2022.

We acknowledge it takes some time for the impacts from events to be identified, and QRA will continue to assess and understand those impacts, and coordinate the support required for recovery.

**State-wide Recovery Governance and Capability Development**

Recovery practice is constantly evolving to meet the needs of disaster impacted communities and QRA recognises the importance of ensuring disaster management stakeholders have the knowledge and skills required to support recovery operations.

QRA is focused on ensuring recovery is locally led and supports local governments and Local Recovery Groups across Queensland to build their recovery capability through training workshops. These workshops focus on finalising recovery governance arrangements and developing recovery sub-plans. There are 54 council recovery plans endorsed across Queensland. A total of 51 Councils have established Local Recovery Groups with 37 Councils have a permanent Local Recovery Coordinator.

During this quarter, QRA also assisted a number of local governments to develop event specific recovery plans as a result of three activated disaster events using the Recovery Planning Methodology.

QRA is delivering the District Recovery Project which is designed to understand recovery needs at the district level and provide District Disaster Management Groups (DDMGs) with specific training based on those needs. The Longreach District Recovery Strategy was endorsed by the DDMG at the March Annual meeting. QRA continues to liaise with the Queensland Police Service to roll out additional workshops associated with the project.

**Sharing Queensland’s experience - Promoting Resilient Infrastructure and Community**

QRA has worked alongside contributors from international emergency management agencies from Japan, Germany, US and New Zealand on Chapter five of RMIT and the Water Environment Federation’s book, ‘Disaster and Emergency Planning for Preparedness, Response and Recovery: Promoting Resilient Infrastructure and Community’ (2nd edition).

The chapter addresses the importance of integrating resilience in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery phases of a disaster and highlight's QRA initiatives including Resilient Queensland, DARMsys, Get Ready Queensland and Betterment.

Now published, the book will be used by water, wastewater, electric and gas utility managers, cyber security engineers, operators, consulting engineers, emergency response planners and professionals, and public officials.



**RESILIENCE**

**QRA is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risks and improving the resilience of communities and facilitating mitigation against potential disasters.**

As the most disaster-prone state in Australia and with on-going disaster impacts across the state, QRA is continually considering new ways to improve the safety and resilience of Queensland communities.

In January 2022, to increase community awareness and resilience to bushfires and flooding, a *Bushfire Communication Toolkit* and the updated *Flood Communication Toolkit* were published on the [Get Ready Queensland website](#).

These Resilient Queensland initiatives aim to support Queensland councils and relevant state agencies with comprehensive and consistent community messaging via social media, disaster dashboards and other communication.



- 1 we understand the potential disaster risks we face
- 2 we work together to better manage disaster risk
- 3 we seek new opportunities to reduce disaster risk
- 4 we continually improve how we prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters

*The communication toolkits align with the four objectives of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience and work towards Stronger, safer and more resilient Queensland communities.*

*The communication toolkits release was timely, recognising a number of significant events have impacted Queensland communities in quick succession. This disaster season alone, we have seen six disaster events across the majority of the state.*

## Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

In line with international best practice, the *Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience* seeks to incorporate the considerable knowledge and experience that exists across government and non-government organisations to deliver a comprehensive and coordinated all-hazards approach to building disaster resilience throughout Queensland.

A key component of the strategy is harnessing local knowledge that supports actions to create stronger, safer, healthier and more secure communities, such as the regional resilience strategies that provide a blueprint to strengthen disaster resilience.

The 2017 strategy is currently being reviewed and updated to ensure it capitalises on the good work already being delivered by our state agencies, local governments and communities and will provide a cohesive approach and future pathways for building resilience across the state. The updated strategy will be launched by the end of 2022. [www.qra.qld.gov.au/QSDR](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/QSDR).

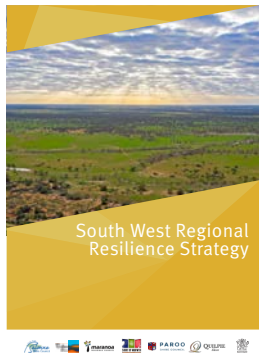
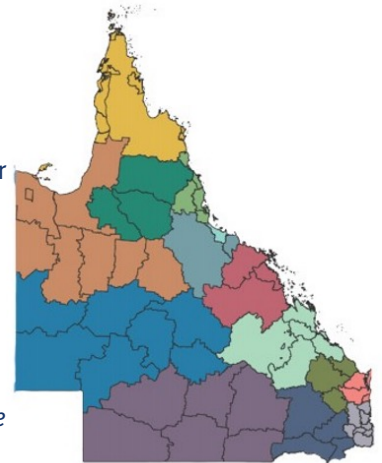
## Building resilient communities

In Queensland we understand that every community is different, so use a place-based approach and co-design process that recognises communities are best placed to understand and identify their needs. This ensures the strategies reflect local communities working together to share local knowledge and address local risks.

During 2022, every region across Queensland will have been part of a locally led, regionally coordinated and state-facilitated blueprint to strengthen disaster resilience.

This quarter, four regional resilience strategies have progressed for final endorsement or stakeholder review, being: Burdekin and Charters Towers, Far North Hinterland to Gulf, Townsville and Palm Island, and Wet Tropics.

Queensland’s Regional Resilience Strategies are a commitment under the *United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Sendai Framework*.



## Implementation of the Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework

This disaster season, Queensland has already experienced six disaster events all of which were flood related.

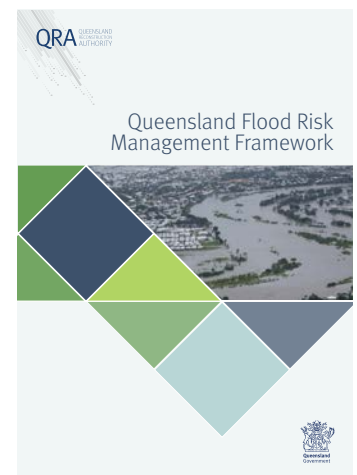
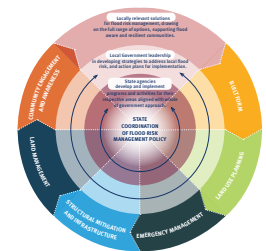
It is therefore timely that last year, the Queensland government endorsed the Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework, which sets the direction for flood risk management in Queensland, outlines roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders, and guides and supports decision-making by councils.

In Queensland, governance of flood risk management is based on a collaborative and decentralised model, with QRA coordinating the Framework implementation. Some actions to deliver expectations articulated in the Framework include building capacity with stakeholders, coordinating funding streams and facilitating a flood warning gauge network that complies with best practice.

Alongside QRA’s coordination role, other core agencies are required to lead the development and implementation of their respective policies and programs, to support decision-making by local governments.

The Framework embeds the mandate for coordinated collaboration across all levels of government to ensure flood risk management responsibilities are understood and delivered.

[www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilience/flood-resilience/queensland-flood-risk-management-framework](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilience/flood-resilience/queensland-flood-risk-management-framework)



**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**SEQ FLOODS LEAVE WIDESPREAD TRAIL OF ROAD DAMAGE**

Repairs are underway after extensive severe flooding caused by sustained heavy rainfall across south east Queensland in late February 2022.

For the first time in Brisbane's recorded rainfall history, there were three consecutive days of more than 200mm. This had never occurred two days in a row and one day of more than 200mm had only been recorded eight times before.

From 23 to 28 February 2022, Brisbane recorded 792.8mm, which is 78% of the annual average of 1011.5mm. The previous six-day record for Brisbane was 655.8mm from 25–30 January 1974.

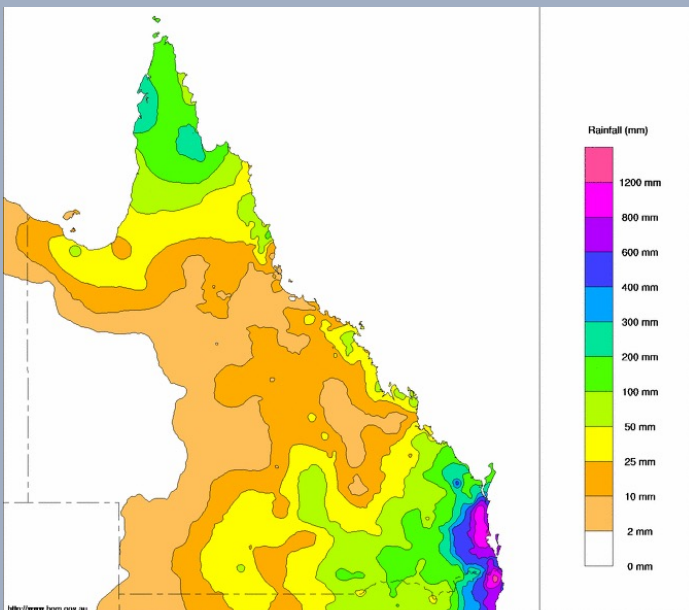


Image: Rainfall map for 22 February–7 March 2022 (Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology)

The flooding caused significant state road damage across 22 local government areas, including numerous major landslips, widespread pavement damage and scouring around bridges and culverts.

As soon as it was safe to do so, the Department of Transport and Main Roads had crews assessing road damage and making urgent repairs to restore access for communities. Key road links were reopened by early March 2022.

Inspections and emergency works, including removing road hazards and repairing pavement, are ongoing across the region to make damaged roads safe until full reconstruction can be completed.

Damage assessments will continue over the coming months and a significant program of reconstruction works will be required.

Assistance will be provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Image: Isis Highway (Childers–Biggenden) – severe shoulder scouring caused by SEQ Rainfall and Flooding.



Image: Brisbane–Woodford Road at Bald Hills Flats – pavement damage from SEQ Rainfall and Flooding.



Image: Gold Coast–Springbrook Road – landslide caused by SEQ Rainfall and Flooding.



Image: Gatton–Clifton Road – damage from SEQ Rainfall and Flooding.

## GET READY QUEENSLAND (GRQ)

**GRQ is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The program integrates a state-wide research driven awareness campaign led by QRA, alongside a grass roots grants program providing \$2M across Queensland’s 77 councils and the Weipa Town Authority to deliver locally-led disaster preparedness initiatives.**

### Get Ready Queensland social media disaster videos have impact

Results revealed on 31 January 2022 show that Get Ready Queensland’s immersive extreme weather videos have had meaningful outcomes in driving Queenslanders to seek preparedness information.

The three animations, launched in December 2021, place viewers at the centre of Queensland’s most frequent natural disasters – severe storms, cyclones, and flooding – highlighting the importance of being prepared for extreme weather.

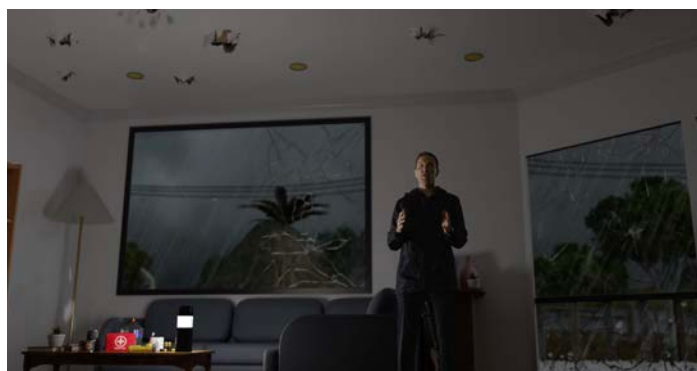
The animations were promoted across Get Ready Queensland’s Facebook and Instagram pages and the Bureau of Meteorology Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn accounts. As of 31 January 2022, the animations had reached more than 365,000 people across Queensland.

During the campaign period, there was also a significant increase in the number of people accessing resources on the Get Ready Queensland website. While the videos were being promoted on social media, the Get Ready Queensland website had 174,902 unique page views which is an increase of nearly 25 per cent compared to the same period in the previous year.

There were also increases in page views on webpages that shared themes with the video animations including:

- 3 Steps to Get Ready – 33.8% (6,439 page views between October 2021 and January 2022).
- Cyclone and storm surge – 64% (4,428 page views between October 2021 and January 2022)
- Flood – 29.7% (2,383 page views between October 2021 and January 2022)
- Alerts and warnings – 56.8% (4,730 page views between October 2021 and January 2022)

The results from the animation campaign suggest that the videos may have prompted people to do things that better prepare them for disasters including educating themselves about disaster risks, how to be ready and how to stay informed. To keep the momentum, Get Ready Queensland will run a second campaign between April and May 2022, this time featuring shorter length immersive videos with higher sense of urgency. These will be featured on Facebook and YouTube.



*Image: The immersive videos show the real impacts of extreme weather and share preparedness advice from experts.*

### 2021 Get Ready Queensland advertising campaign research results

In February, Market and Communication Research (MCR) delivered a report for the Get Ready Queensland 2021 campaign, evaluating the impression and impact of the advertising effort.

The statewide campaign encouraged all Queenslanders to take 3 Steps to Get Ready:

1. Know your local disaster risk
2. Prepare a household plan
3. Pack an emergency kit.

The 2021 campaign featured 2020’s television advertisement to entrench awareness and grow brand recognition. The TV advertisement was complemented by a new 30 second radio advertisement and two online videos targeting new arrivals to Queensland. The campaign ran from Sunday 10 October to Saturday 20 November 2021.

By comparing the outcomes with the 2020 campaign results, the Get Ready Queensland team can determine areas of success or where improvements are required. The results showed positive impact overall.

Key results:

- 53% of respondents recognised the campaign creative (up from 43% in 2020).
- Television continues to be the most impactful channel, although social media is particularly strong for First Nations Communities and non-English households.
- 90% of respondents said the campaign message was easy to understand.
- 87% agree the campaign is a good way to encourage action-taking.
- 83% recognise Johnathan Thurston as the Get Ready Queensland 2021 ambassador and 76% agreed he is a good spokesperson for the campaign.
- New arrivals to Queensland had much lower recognition (17%), but 84% agreed that the campaign would be helpful to someone new to the state.
- New arrivals (41%) are less likely than other Queenslanders (71%) to consider themselves prepared.

Recommendations to improve the campaign is to feature more “real Queenslanders” in the creative, trial more emotional concepts and provide more specific advice about what to do to get prepared.

**Get Ready Queensland team gets crafty on school visits**

A new approach to Get Ready Queensland’s school program has harnessed the creativity and imagination of children to learn about disaster preparedness. School visits have long been a favourite for the Get Ready team, who are exploring new approaches for educating young minds.

The new crafty group-activity sees children create their own disaster scenario and then think through the associated safety behaviours and emergency kit items. More than 70 Grade 5 students at Immanuel Lutheran College, Sunshine Coast, were the first to take part in the session, creating fantastic artworks.

This lesson plan will be added to the suite of educational activities used by Get Ready Queensland, local councils, and schools across Queensland.



*Images: Grade 5 students at Immanuel Lutheran College, Buderim, using craft to learn about disaster preparedness.*

**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**HEAVY RAINFALL LEADS TO BEECHMONT ROAD EMBANKMENT FAILURE**

Emergency works are underway and Beechmont Road has been temporarily closed for safety between Bottletree Lane and North Road due to a significant embankment failure. It is one of several Gold Coast hinterland roads to suffer severe damage following record rainfall across south east Queensland in late February and early March 2022. A total of 342mm was reported at Beechmont from 27 February to 1 March 2022.

In late March 2022, a further 286mm fell over six days at Beechmont, exacerbating the damage and leading to a large section of the road falling down the mountain on 29 March 2022.

Following the initial damage in February 2022, Transport and Main Roads crews built a side track to enable traffic to continue to use the road under a single-lane, stop-go arrangement. Given the steep terrain, further downpours caused the remaining part of the road to slip further away and left the side track severely undermined.

The road will be closed for safety until further notice to allow crews to clean up the damaged site, complete geotechnical assessments and repair the embankment failure.

Traffic detours are in place so residents can access their properties – those below Brushbox Road enter via Nerang–Murwillumbah Road and those above Brushbox Road enter via Beaudesert–Nerang Road (Canungra).

Investigations are underway and crews will be working to stabilise the area, however it is too early to confirm when the road can safely reopen.

Assistance will be provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



*Image top: Beechmont Road – embankment failure (late March 2022). Bottom left: Beechmont Road – embankment failure after SEQ Rainfall and Flooding (early March 2022). Bottom right: Beechmont Road – embankment failure (late March 2022).*